

# RESEARCH CAPACITY IN LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

*Building stronger research institutions, on demand*

## About the Program

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) joined hands with the Global Development Network (GDN) to address the demand for stronger institutions working on policy-relevant research in Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Piloting an innovative demand-driven model for institutional capacity building, between 2014 and 2017, GDN supported national research actors to implement their own blueprints for stronger research and outreach. The program provided financial, technical, outreach and grant-management support through GDN's team in New Delhi and carefully paired advisors. The program significantly expanded the research culture in nine colleges of the Royal University of Bhutan; strengthened the quality of research training in Ethiopia's prime department of agribusiness and agricultural economics at Haramaya University; and allowed the Royal University of Law and Economics in Cambodia to join hands with the Vietnamese Academy of Social Science and run a summer school, on the tools and methods for development research for participants from all over South-East Asia.

GDN focused on competitively selected, single institutions in LDCs and worked with teams of insiders to engineer possible and desirable institutional innovations with an impact on research culture. The toolkit of services offered to the implementing teams was tailored to the needs of each institution, and adapted to the changing needs of the teams throughout implementation. GDN provided funding and on-demand support services to implement high-quality research trainings, stronger research funding mechanisms, and stronger outreach capacity. Advisors with extensive global experience in research capacity building acted as intermediaries between the teams and GDN, facilitating the identification of needs, tracking progress, supporting the team in showcasing their work at the national level, and expanding their international links.

## Advisors

- ✓ Benjamin Buclet, Director, Center for Research and Expertise on Education and Development (CREED)
- ✓ Jean-Pierre Cling, Director of External Relations, National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE)
- ✓ Kazuo Matsushita, Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University, Senior Fellow, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

### Program

Strengthening  
Policy-Relevant Research  
through Stronger  
Institutions in Least  
Developed Countries

### Funding

US\$ 704,700 from the  
International Development  
Research Centre  
(IDRC)

### Location

Bhutan, Ethiopia,  
Cambodia & Vietnam

### Duration

Jan. 2014 - Mar. 2017